

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	10/694,588
Filing Date	October 27, 2003
First Named Inventor	Dörrie et al.
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Gregory John Binda
Attorney Docket Number	INA-PT080 (4134-18-US)

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.		
Signature			
Printed name	Randolph J. Huis		
Date	12/28/2004	Reg. No.	34,626

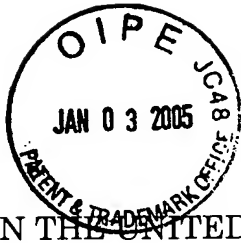
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Signature			
Typed or printed name	Randolph J. Huis	Date	12/28/2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to be (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IFW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Dörrie et al.

Application No.: 10/694,588

Confirmation No.: 3750

Filed: October 27, 2003

For: COUPLING ARRANGEMENT

Group: 3679

Examiner: Gregory John Binda

Our File: INA-PT080

(4134-18-US)

Date: December 28, 2004

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.11

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being timely filed in response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2004 with an Election of Species Requirement.

The Office Action requires restriction between Species I, shown in Figures 1-13, and Species II, shown in Figures 14 and 15. Applicants hereby elect Species II, shown in Figures 14 and 15, for prosecution on the merits in this application, with traverse. Applicants note that the coupling arrangement of both species of the invention function in generally the same manner with first and second clamping rings having clamping bodies located therebetween. In the first embodiment, shown in Figures 1-13, the retainer is connected to the outer clamping ring, while in the second embodiment, shown in Figures 14 and 15, the retainer is connected to

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Application No.: 10/694,588

the inner clamping ring. The embodiments also differ in which of the inner and outer clamping rings acts as the slipper ring to effectuate the clamping action. However, the operation of the coupling arrangement is generally the same in either case.

Applicants submit that claims 1-21, 23, 24 and 25 read on the elected species, and are currently generic.

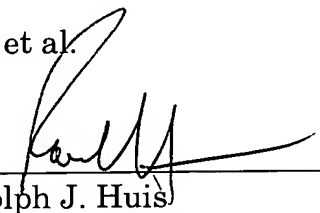
If the examiner has any questions or believes that a telephonic interview would help to resolve any issues with respect to this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the examiner's convenience.

Prompt examination of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dörrie et al.

By



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RJH/dmm